

USDA-SCS
Section II-E
Area 13

Howard Co.

STEEP ROCKY

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

RE 25-31

Land Resource Area: Edwards Plateau

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: Steep escarpments and slopes often having large limestone rocks to the surface. Slopes range from 8 to 40 percent. Elevation ranges from 2000 to 2800 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. These are very shallow loamy soils over cemented caliche and limestone. There are varying sizes of limestone rocks and boulders on the soil surface. Slopes are generally quite steep. Cracks and crevices in the fractured limestone parent material affect rainfall effectiveness and plant growth.
 - b. Soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are: Rough stoney land.
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMATE - See Field Office Climatic Description
4. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. Due to topography and soils, this site is a mid to tall grass potential with a variety of forbs and woody plants. Present in the climax plant community are such grasses as little bluestem, sideoats grama, and green sprangletop. Juniper is the most common woody plant. The north facing slopes consistently produce more and better vegetation.

<u>Relative Percentage</u>				
<u>Grasses</u>	30%	<u>Forbs</u>	10%	<u>Woody</u>
Little bluestem	20	Bush sunflower		Juniper
Sideoats grama	15	Orange zemania		Ephedra
Green sprangletop	10	Croton		Catclaw
Slim tridens		Chalkhill woolywhite		Shinoak
Indiangrass	5	Gaura species		Sumac species
Sand bluestem		Oenothera species		Elbowbush
Hairy grama	5	Greenthead		Dalea species
Perennial threeawn		Mexican sagewort		Hackberry
Cane bluestem	10	Catclaw sensitivebriar		Javelinabush
Plains bristlegrass	5	Dotted gayfeather		Agarita
Bush muhly		Wild alfalfa		Fourwing saltbush
New Mexico feather- grass	T			
Black grama	5			
Buffalograss				
Sand dropseed				
Blue grama	5			
Vine-mesquite				

- b. As retrogression occurs, woody plants such as juniper, sumac, cat-claw and numerous forbs increase. Juniper is the most common invader. These sites are generally in better condition due to limited accessibility.
- c. Approximate total annual yield on the site in excellent condition ranges from 500 to 1800 pounds depending on rainfall.
5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is used by deer, turkey, dove and quail. The abundance of a variety of vegetation makes it a good wildlife site.
6. AESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: This site is quite diverse and grows many colorful forbs and woody plants during the growing season. The large limestone rocks and scattered shrubs make the site attractive to the eye. Although it is accessible only by foot or horseback it does provide an interesting hiking and nature study area. Care should be exercised due to the steep terrain.
7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: The runoff from the steep slopes is rapid. Due to the amount of exposed rock and the fractures in the limestone parent material, a minimum amount of soil is lost. A good plant cover is essential to hold erosion to a minimum.

3. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. Condition Class	Percentage		AC/AU/YR
	Climax Vegetation		
Excellent	76 - 100		36 - 44
Good	51 - 75		44 - 50
Fair	26 - 50		50 - 60
Poor	0 - 25		60+

b. Seeded areas: Due to rough topography seeding is seldom done.

9. RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES:a. Cattle:

PRIMARY*	SECONDARY*	LOW VALUE*
Little bluestem	Cane bluestem	Threecawn
Sideoats grama	Bush muhly	Juniper
Green sprangletop	Slim tridens	Javelinabush
Indiangrass	Orange zizaniaria	Catclaw
Sand bluestem	Wild alfalfa	Annuals
Plains bristlegrass	Bush sunflower	
New Mexico feather-grass	Buffalograss	
Vine-mesquite	Hairy grama	
	Ephedra	

b. Sheep:

Buffalograss	Cane bluestem	Juniper
Plains bristlegrass	Fourwing saltbush	Catclaw
Chalkhill woolywhite	Ephedra	Javelinabush
Bush sunflower	Greenthread	Agarita
Orange zizaniaria	Slim tridens	Threecawn

c. Deer:

Bush sunflower	Sumac	Juniper
Chalkhill woolywhite	Elbowbush	Javelinabush
Hackberry	Dalea	Agarita
Fourwing saltbush	Ephedra	Most grasses
Shinoak	Greenthread	
Annual forbs	Sideoats	
Sensitivebriar	Little bluestem	
	Gaura	

9. d. Quail and Turkey:PRIMARY**

Croton
Hackberry mast
Agarita mast
Rush pea
Milk vetch
Annual forb seed
Oak mast
Sumac mast

SECONDARY**

Plains bristlegrass
Vine-mesquite
Bush sunflower
Orange zizmenia
Fourwing saltbush

LOW VALUE**

Moss grasses
Juniper

DATE: 5-16-79APPROVED BY: R.H.J.